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A NEW DIADIPLOSIS

By E. P. Felt

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The midge described below was received from Prof. Wheeler accompanied by the statement that the larvae were devouring mealy-bugs (*Pseudococcus bromeliae* Bouché) in a cavity of a peculiar myrmecophilous tree, *Tachigalia,* in British Guiana. The coccids and the fly larvæ live in a cavity of the leaf petiole.

This species approaches closely that West Indian *Diadiplosis cocci* Felt, which was reared from larvæ preying upon the eggs of *Saissetia nigra* Nietn., a scale insect frequently abundant upon the stems of Sea Island cotton. The female of the West Indian species has a distinct knob upon the terminal antennal segment and the lobes of the oviposter are somewhat narrower, two characters which serve to distinguish the species, though it is frequently very difficult to find characteristic structures in female gall midges.

Diadiplosis pseudococci sp. nov.

Female. Length 1.25 mm. Antennae extending to the base of the abdomen, sparsely haired, yellowish brown, of fourteen segments, the fifth with a stem about one-fourth the length of the cylindrical basal enlargement, which latter has a length about two and one-half times its diameter and is slightly constricted near the basal third; low, broad circumfila occur on the enlargement at the basal third and apically; basally there is a thick whorl of rather long, stout setae and on the ventral face near the distal third a rather thick group of long, rather strongly curved, slender setae; terminal segment somewhat produced, with a length nearly three times its diameter and tapering gradually to a sub-acute apex (no knob as in *D. cocci)* Palpi: the first segment short, the second with a length about twice its diameter, and the third a little longer than the second. Mesonotum dark reddish brown; scutellum and postscutellum yellowish orange; abdomen "orange red"; the sclerites yellowish

brown; wings hyaline; halteres pale yellowish, fuscous subapically; coxae and femora basally pale yellowish, the remainder of the legs dark straw; claws moderately stout, strongly curved, unidentate; the pulvilli about one-half the length of the claws; ovipositor short, the lobes broadly oval and clothed sparsely with rather coarse hairs.

Pupa. Length 1.5 mm. Rather stout, yellowish orange, the antennal cases extending to the middle of the thorax; the wing cases to the third abdominal segment and the leg cases to the fourth and fifth abdominal segments; posterior extremely broadly rounded, with a median furrow, the abdominal segments dorsally each with a rather broad, transverse band of scattering weak spines.

Larva. Length 1.5 mm. Moderately stout, yellowish orange (probably reddish orange in life); head short, mostly retracted; the breastbone weakly developed, bilobed anteriorly, the lobes rather broad, broadly rounded and roundly excavated at the internal basal angles; the shaft weakly and irregularly developed; the posterior extremity obsolescent; near the middle of each segment there is a transverse row of moderately long, tapering, setose processes; skin rather finely shagreened, posterior extremely broadly rounded.

Type Cecid. A3176, New York State Museum.

The larvæ, as noted by Prof. Wheeler, live under a web in small groups. The pupae occur intermixed and can be distinguished from larvae only with difficulty. The midges doubtless emerge directly from these shelters.

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Wheeler, William Morton.
Study of some social
beetles in British Guiana,
1921.